

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02160 030533Z

15

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 EB-03

MC-01 /036 W

----- 042569

R 030450Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9047

S E C R E T TAIPEI 2160

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MASS TW

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL F-5E CO-PRODUCTION

REF: (A) STATE 073376, (B) STATE 000904, (C) 75 TAIPEI 8069

1. DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT THE ROC HAS NOT MADE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR CO-PRODUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL 80 F-5E/F'S. WITHIN THE GROC, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CAF HAS DECIDED ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION WILL MEET ITS NEEDS AND HAS FORWARDED A PROPOSAL FOR CO-PRODUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL 48 F-5E AND 20 F-5F TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND). MND IN KEEPING WITH PAST PRACTICE HAS REFUSED TO PUT IN A FORMAL REQUEST UNTIL FUNDING CAN BE ARRANGED.

2. WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO BE CORRECT WHEN IT SUGGESTS COST FACTORS ARE FORCING THE GROC TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, OUR MAAG ADVISORS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOST PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE GROC'S NEAR-TERM AIRCRAFT NEEDS (REF C) IS ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION AND THAT IN THE END THE GROC WILL SELECT THIS ALTERNATIVE. MISSION ALSO BELIEVES THAT ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION IS THE BEST WAY TO MEET ROC AIRCRAFT NEEDS AND, FURTHER, THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE CONCEPT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02160 030533Z

(GRADUAL EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION CAPABILITY) AND HELPS

MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DETERRENT IN THE TAIWAN AREA.

3. AS REPORTED REF C THE GROC AND MAAG BOTH FEEL THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASE OF SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT WOULD RISK INTRODUCING LOGISTICAL COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS ACQUISITION AND MAINTAINANCE OF SUFFICIENT SPARE PARTS WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT COMBAT READINESS OF THE ROC AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. THERE ARE OF COURSE ALSO CONSIDERABLE COMMERCIAL BENEFITS WHICH THE US WOULD HAVE TO FOREGO IF THE GROC WERE TO OPT FOR THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT.

4. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THERE MAY BE SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT, WE BELIEVE THESE ARE OUTWEIGHTED BY THE MORE BASIC CONTRIBUTION OF CONTINUED CO-PRODUCTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A CREDIBLE DETERRENT ON TAIWAN. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A GROC DECISION TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION, WE URGE THAT POLICY DECISION BE MADE BY USG NOW. WE CAN THEN ENCOURAGE GROC TO FORWARD ITS REQUEST IN A TIMELY MANNER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DURING HIS CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON THE AMBASSADOR UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS PRESSING FOR A DECISION ON ADDITIONAL CO-PRODUCTION AND THAT USG APPROVAL WAS ANTICIPATED. WE NOW URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO SEEK ACTIVELY A DECISION ON THE POLICY QUESTION OF WHETHER CONTINUED CO-PRODUCTION OF UP TO 80 F-5E/F'S WOULD BE APPROVED UPON ITS FORMAL SUBMISSION BY GROC AS REQUESTED IN 75 TAIPEI 8069. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT DISCUSS WITH MG SLADE NASH, CH/MAAG, WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION SHORTLY, ISSUES MENTIONED ABOVE, PARTICULARLY QUESTIONS OF AIRCRAFT COMPATIBILITY AND SUPPORT, AND IMPACT OF CO-PRODUCTION ON ROC SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND MODERNIZATION EFFORT.

UNGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ARMS PRODUCTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI02160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760125-0826
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760499/aaaadhkc.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 STATE 73376, 76 STATE 904, 76 TAIPEI 8069
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL F-5E CO-PRODUCTION
TAGS: MASS, TW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006